Learning Activities

*Why Study Soil?**

An activity which highlights the importance of learning about the soils on earth. In this activity students explore some of the many uses of soils, learn the five soil-forming factors, and gain a better understanding of how little of Earth's surface is covered in soil.

Just Passing Through

Beginning students are introduced to the basic concepts of how water passes through soil in an activity which illustrates the scientific method. More advanced students investigate the effects of soil characteristics on water infiltration and the chemistry of water that has passed through soil.

*From Mud Pies to Bricks**

Introduces the various particle sizes found in soils and the properties which each contributes to the soil character.

*Soil and My Backyard**

Students collect, describe and compare soils from their own backyards.

*A Field View of Soil and Soil Moisture - Digging Around**

Students discover that soil properties such as moisture and temperature can vary considerably across a single landscape.

*Soils as Sponges: How Much Water Does Soil Hold?**

Students explore soil moisture by weighing and drying sponges and then they explore their soil samples in the same way.

*Soil: The Great Decomposer**

Students simulate environmental conditions in order to determine which are the key factors in the decomposition of organic material in soil.

*The Data Game**

Teams of students play a game in which they gather data and distort the values of certain measurements. They then estimate the values of the measurements taken by other teams and try to detect their errors.

* See the full e-guide version of the *Teacher's Guide* available on the GLOBE Web site and CD-ROM.